



OUT20/15805

Ms Sarah Lees
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cc. katrina.zantiotis-linton@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Lees

Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

Thank you for the opportunities to provide comment on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 as per your email dated 3 November 2020. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture provides advice to consent authorities about the protection and growth of agricultural industries and the resources upon which these industries depend to provide economic growth.

NSW DPI has reviewed the above-mentioned document and is pleased that NSW DPIE has incorporated many of the themes and concepts outlined in an email from NSW DPI to NSW DPIE dated 18th June 2020 to Katrina Zantiotis-Linton. Strategies centred on maintaining and developing agriculture, the growth of agribusiness, manufacturing and food processing, soil carbon, freight and transport, urban growth boundaries, rural residential development, net zero region and circular economies by 2050 that have been incorporated in the plan are of particular importance to NSW DPI -Agriculture.

In particular, it is noted that the important agricultural land (IAL) mapping has been included within the body of the text on page 41 stating that “NSW Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a mapping project to identify important agricultural land across NSW. Once finalised, councils will consider these maps in local strategic planning and local plans.” This statement is fully supported by NSW DPI. It will also be important for councils to consider the agricultural profiles (soon to be released) developed for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region and intended to provide the context for the IAL maps. An additional paragraph could be inserted on page 41 after the IAL mapping paragraph along the lines of: “NSW DPI has developed agricultural profiles that outline the top five agricultural industries operating in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region, secondary industries that support and rely on those agricultural industries and challenges and opportunities that are collectively faced to assist with land use planning for agriculture. Once completed, councils will consider these in local strategic planning and local plans.”

NSW DPIE should be congratulated on the Draft 2041 plan. The themed approach addresses many of the current issues and concepts facing governments and industries. This approach will also enable significantly more collaboration in the region.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please contact Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer, [REDACTED] at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED] 17/12/20
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